



Effingham County Board  
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# EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

January 16, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS: Joshua Douthit-District B, Chair, David Campbell-District D, Vice Chair, Norbert Soltwedel-District A, Tim Ellis-District C, Christopher Keller-District E, Elizabeth Huston-District F, Doug McCain-District G, Sandra Gillet-District H, Jeremy Deters-District I.

#### 1. ROLL CALL, PLEDGE, PRAYER

The County Board of Effingham County, Illinois met pursuant to a regular meeting on Monday, January 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, County Building, City of Effingham, and State of Illinois.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Joshua Douthit. Roll call was taken with the following **Board Members present:** Joshua Douthit, David Campbell, Norbert Soltwedel, Tim Ellis, Christopher Keller (late), Doug McCain, Sandra Gillet, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer.

#### 2. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- None

#### 3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

##### APPROVE MINUTES

##### ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

##### APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

##### COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Approve Jackson Township Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Quad-Multi-Township Assessing District Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Banner Township Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Inspection of County Building Windows
- Approve Options of RFQ and TIPS to State's Attorney for Review and Recommendation for Windows/Solar Project
- Approve Resolution to Increase Election Judge Daily Compensation for Effingham County
- Approve 2024 Mileage Rate

- Approve \$10,368 in Opioid Settlement Funds for Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council d/b/a Hour House
- Approve Release of Closed Session Minutes

#### **CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Member J. Deters pulled item “Approve \$10,368 in Opioid Settlement Funds for Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council d/b/a Hour House”. Chairman placed item as #3L.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled under the committee agenda considerations. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain.
- **#3L - APPROVE \$10,368 IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FOR CENTRAL EAST ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG COUNCIL D/B/A HOUR HOUSE**

Member J. Deters pulled this agenda item to get clarification from the States Attorney about the purchase of gas cards with the Opioid settlement funds. He stated the purchase would be fine but limited use of the cards. Member J. Deters made motion to approve \$10,368 in Opioid Settlement Funds for Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council d/b/a Hour House Member N. Soltwedel seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain.

#### **4. APPROVE MODIFICATION TO CHILDCARE RESEARCH COMMITTEE GAP SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Chairman Douthit stated this item was placed on the agenda without committee recommendation to modify item #11 on the GAP scholarship agreement. The modification is to audit the applicants annually with the last two pay stubs . Currently there are three applicants that would be audited. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve a modification to the Childcare Research Committee Gap Scholarship agreement to be audited annually using the applicant’s last two pay stubs. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

#### **5. APPROVE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- It was noted the annual contribution of \$94,000.00 was the same as the previous year. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the University of Illinois Extension Contribution agreement. Member D. McCain seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain

#### **6. APPROVE AMENDED VERBIAGE IN LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN’S AFFAIRS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Chairman Douthit stated no lease payments have been made since the agreement was executed. A contract amendment must be done to modify the payee as Central Management Services. All other terms and conditions will remain the same. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve Amended Verbiage in Lease Agreement with Department of Veteran’s Affairs. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

#### **7. APPROVE ORDINANCE ON HOUSING ZONING WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Chairman Douthit stated this is a discussion item. It was noted Aaron Jones, States Attorney, is drafting an ordinance addressing the immigrant crisis and housing large numbers. Currently Effingham County doesn’t have zoning outside of unincorporated areas. Each city and village must implement their own individual policy and procedures in regards to zoning.

**8. APPROVE RESOLUTION PROHIBITING LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SPENT ON IMMIGRANT CRISIS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, gave his approval to the resolution. Chairman J. Douthit read the resolution. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Resolution Prohibiting Local Tax Dollars spent on the Immigrant Crisis. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

**9. RISK CONTROL REPORT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- The report for the risk assessment was presented to the board members. Travelers Insurance performed an assessment at the Effingham County Building and Effingham County Government Center. A list of recommendations was noted in the report. The County has 120 days to respond to the recommendations. There was discussion on the sprinklers and fire pump testing. Member J. Deters made a motion to refer back to Building and Grounds to review the report and recommendations for a response. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

**10. CENTRICA WINDOWS/SOLAR PROJECT**

- Blaine Meadows was present at the meeting for the Centrica Windows/Solar Project and gave a summary of the current project. Blaine stated there are two options for the project. First would be that Effingham County would perform their own RFQ process, draft their own documents and do their own evaluation and selection process. The other option would be for Effingham County to join TIPS Cooperative Purchasing Program. This program helps local governments to streamline the process to select a vendor and assists with the procurement process. Centrica is recommending to utilize TIPS since the application process to apply for solar incentives is fast approaching. The deadline to apply for these incentives will be in April. Centrica needs to be selected to continue with the application process and the RFQ's. There was discussion on agenda item #G2. It was noted the intent of the consent agenda item #G2 was to state Effingham County is now moving forward with a different process instead of a change order. Member J. Deters made a motion for Effingham County to enroll into the TIPS Cooperative program upon approval from the States Attorney. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. **Motion Carried.** Blaine Meadows noted that joining TIPS doesn't select Centrica for this project. There was general discussion with Centrica and Tick Tock Energy on the possible window/solar project.

**11. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS**

- Melissa Ferris, Chief Deputy County Clerk, noted the first day to vote early and for the clerk's office to mail out a ballot in the General Primary Election is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Early voting will take place on the first floor of the County Building.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, stated in regards to the immigration crisis, his department wants to be part of the solution to the problem. He was informed thru IEMA that law enforcement will take these immigrants to Chicago and has the authority to escort these immigrants out of the county.
- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, informed the board he will be listing two positions that will be open in his office for clerical staff. He also noted he has hired a second assistant States Attorney.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, noted the Treasurer's office has been preparing for the tax sale on January 18<sup>th</sup> which include 196 parcels and talked about payment
- Kim Rhodes, Coroner, presented a report the Coroner's FY23 final report.
- Angie Thompson reminded the public about the new website at [effinghamcountyil.gov](http://effinghamcountyil.gov).

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Norbert Soltwedel stated his concerns about the vandalism in the county at the Health Dept. and with the Highway Dept. He suggested to hold parents accountable.

**13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Courtney Yockey informed the board about the webinar with Leadership Crawford County on February 1, 2024

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

**15. ADJOURN**

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous.  
***Motion carried.***